

House Education Committee Amendment No. 1

Amendment No. 1 to HB1735

**Winningham
Signature of Sponsor**

AMEND

Senate Bill No. 782*

House Bill No. 1735

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

By deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-5-5609, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) To encourage Tennessee teachers to become excellent teachers and to retain them in the teaching profession, the state shall support teachers' efforts to achieve national certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) as provided in subdivision (a)(2).

(2) Pursuant to rules adopted by the state board of education, the state department of education shall:

(A) Provide approved paid leave time for teachers participating in the national certification process;

(B) Pay the participation fee; and

(C) Pay an annual salary supplement of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in addition to any other compensation to which the teacher may be entitled. This salary supplement shall be paid to the teacher for so long as the teacher maintains national board certification, is a full time employee in a public school in Tennessee, and is in a position where classroom instruction is at least fifty percent (50%) of the assigned duties. This salary supplement shall be treated as earnable compensation as defined in § 8-34-101.

(b) The commissioner of education shall:

(1) Provide no more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) financial aid in the form of low-interest loans to teachers seeking national certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. A teacher receiving a loan pursuant to this subsection shall only be required to repay the state half of the amount loaned, with no interest incurred for the amount forgiven, if such teacher submits a complete and scorable portfolio in one (1) process. The teacher shall not be required to repay the remainder of the loan if such teacher successfully obtains certification; and

(2) Report to the state board of education regarding the number of Tennessee candidates and the number attaining certification.

(c) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Teacher" means a person who meets the qualifications of chapter 5, part 1 of this title and has received a license to teach in a public school system in compliance with the rules and regulations of the state board of education. In addition, to be eligible for the salary differential, the individual shall spend at least seventy percent (70%) of such individual's work time in:

(A) Classroom instruction, if the employee is employed as a teacher. Most of the teacher's remaining time shall be spent in one (1) or more of the following: mentoring teachers, doing demonstration lessons for teachers, writing curricula, developing and leading staff development programs for teachers; or

(B) Work within the employee's area of certification or licensure, if the employee is employed in an area of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' certification other than direct classroom instruction; and

(2) "Tennessee public school" means a school operated by a local board of education, including a charter school.

(d) The state shall pay the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' certification participation fee for all teachers participating in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' program who:

(1) Have completed three (3) full years of teaching in a Tennessee public school; and

(2)

(A) Have not previously received state funds for participating in any certification area in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' program;

(B) Have repaid any state funds previously received for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' certification process; or

(C) Have received a waiver of repayment from the state board of education.

(e) A teacher who does not complete the process shall repay the certification fee to the state. Repayment is not required if a teacher does not complete the process due to the death or disability of the teacher. The state board of education may waive the repayment requirement if it finds that the teacher was unable to complete the process due to:

(1) The illness of the teacher;

(2) The death or catastrophic illness of a member of the teacher's immediate family;

(3) Parental leave to care for a newborn or newly adopted child;

or

(4) Other extraordinary circumstances.

(f) A teacher who does not teach for one (1) year in a Tennessee public school after completing the process shall repay the certification fee to the state. Repayment is not required if a teacher does not teach in a Tennessee public school for at least one (1) year after completing the process due to such teacher's death or disability. The state board of education may extend the time before which a teacher must either teach for one (1) year or repay the participation fee if it finds that the teacher is unable to teach the next year due to:

(1) The illness of the teacher;

(2) The death or catastrophic illness of a member of the teacher's immediate family;

(3) Parental leave to care for a newborn or newly adopted child;

or

(4) Other extraordinary circumstances.

(g) The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of this section. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5. Proposed rules and regulations shall be submitted by the state board to the joint oversight committee on education for review and comment.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring

it.